

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO STEN CARLSON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to my friend, Sten Carlson of Burlingame, California, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. I want to acknowledge his public service and lifetime of accomplishments.

Mr. Carlson was born on June 27, 1912 in Fort William, Ontario, Canada, of Swedish immigrant parents. Sten's early life was spent farming in Saskatchewan. He immigrated to the United States in 1951 where he met and later married Elizabeth. They have been happily married for the past forty-five years and are the proud parents of Eric, an automobile executive, and Frank, who was killed in a horrible violent crime in San Francisco shortly after his marriage.

Mr. Speaker, Sten Carlson was a model employee of MacDonald Aircraft where he built the Mosquito aircraft, a low flying plane used for observing troop movement and low level bombing. Known as the "Flying Coffin," the aircraft was made of balsa wood and glue, and powered by Rolls Royce Engines. He then worked for 25 years as a ground mechanic for United Airlines in San Francisco. Although he retired in 1977, Sten has continued to be active in the local labor community, becoming a lifetime member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1781. To this day, Sten still serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Retirees. He has been a strong voice for retirees and for protecting pensioners.

I am grateful to have the privilege of paying tribute to a man so dedicated to the enrichment of his community. Mr. Carlson is a tireless volunteer at San Francisco's public television station, KQED, and has given over 15 years of volunteer service to Peninsula Medical Center. He is currently involved in implementing the medical center's Lifeline Program, which provides local seniors with a transmitter placed in a necklace. If the senior is in need of medical assistance and unable to reach the phone they can then push a button on the medallion, sending a signal to local emergency medical services that they need assistance.

These efforts are typical of Sten Carlson, as he has always made time in his life for community service. His own personal tragedy, the loss of a son in a senseless violent crime, has been the motivation for his long-standing focus on victim support groups, a commitment spanning over three decades. Sten Carlson lives a life that serves as a testimony to integrity, fidelity, honor, ethical courage, and devotion to family, friends, and country.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating this extraordinary individual, Sten Carlson, as he and his family gather to celebrate his 90th birthday.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into the RECORD the thoughts of one of my constituents, Ginny McConnell of Troy, Idaho. Every Member of this House should take Ginny's comments to heart as we consider further curbs on the freedoms we enjoy. I am proud of Ginny McConnell and of the people of Idaho who continue to cherish the lessons our Founding Fathers taught us more than two centuries ago.

TOUGH DECISIONS HAVE HARD CONSEQUENCES (By Ginny McConnell)

Recently, one of my students left a message on my voice mail to tell me she would be unable to come to class for the three days of oral presentations because one of her children was sick. Her group, now without her, had to scramble to cover her part of their report. I had allocated 25 points for the oral portion and 75 points for the written materials that would be handed in.

When the student returned to class, I told her she would not get the 25 points for the oral report, since she was not there. She immediately went to the college director to complain that it was not fair that I should deny her those 25 points. This student was unclear on the concept that hard decisions mean that you can't have it both ways. Her choice to stay home with her sick child instead of finding someone to sit with him meant that she had to forfeit the points for the oral presentation.

Possibly our advertising is at least partially at fault here, with its "you can have it all" mentality. But Patrick Henry understood the reality of difficult choices: "Give me liberty or give me death." I thought of him when I heard a radio report that four out of five Americans said they would give up their rights for the government to make the country safe from terrorism. Possibly these people are like my student: they think they won't really have to give up anything, that they can keep their rights and be completely safe from terrorism. Patrick Henry knew better.

This is a very hard choice to make, no doubt about it. But be very careful here, my friends. Don't be so quick to let the government direct your lives and suspend the Bill of Rights. Do those four out of five people think this will be a temporary situation? Do they think they are safe because they have nothing to hide from the government? Neither is true.

To paraphrase John Steinbeck, the government is a monster and the monster must be fed. It will not be satisfied with just a little snack. And, even if terrorism should be completely eradicated, the government will be more reluctant to return those rights than a landlord with a large security deposit. You can kiss them goodbye. They are so easy to give up and so hard to get back. A right here, a right there . . . pretty soon the government has gobbled them all up.

I realize the importance of feeling safe and secure in our country. But I also have come

to realize that death is not the worst thing that can happen. If I have to give up my civil rights to the government, which always thinks it knows how to run my life better than I do, then stand me up next to Patrick Henry and shoot me. Were I to tolerate what four out of five Americans seem willing to do, a million ghosts in gray, in blue, in khaki, in olive drab and in camouflage would rise up and chastise me with, "What do you think we died for? Now you've made it all for nothing."

Yes, I know that extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. And I will gladly put up with a search of my luggage at the airport and a presentation of my picture identification whenever. But that's a whole different ballgame from the FBI coming warrantless into my home and checking out my closets and my computer. We have ample evidence of certain governmental arms expanding their authority. Do those four out of five people honestly believe this will not happen in their new America?

We have a duty to preserve the United States for the future. And if that means we give our lives for it today, well, that's the price of liberty. I think we're a little too concerned with our physical existence and not nearly enough about our philosophical existence. We should think long and hard about any powers we cede to the government—I should say, to those we have allowed to represent us. Sometimes we forget that we are the government. Let's not change that.

As the late Jim Morrison said about life (and he would know), "No one here gets out alive." Sometimes tough choices must be made, in which case we don't get the benefits of the road we didn't take. If you don't make your oral report, you don't get the points for it. If you give up your rights, you don't get to keep them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 230, on Agreeing to the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 231, H. Con. Res. 415, Recognizing National Homeownership Month. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 232, H. Con. Res. 340, Supporting Meningitis Awareness Month. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

U.S. EMBASSY IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend the Bush Administration

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